

Win Moses

State Representative • District 81



It is with great pleasure that I take this time to introduce you to our new Indiana Attorney General, Karen Freeman-Wilson. At the time of her appointment, Ms. Freeman-Wilson was the presiding judge of the Gary City Court.

As judge, Ms. Freeman-Wilson instituted innovative programs to combat drug dealing and gang involvement

among young people. She has worked to reduce teen smoking and to combat drug addiction. In her community, she was on the board and provided legal services to Rainbow Shelter, a domestic violence shelter, and she worked with the Gary Commission on Women to draft its handbook and to provide training on rape awareness and victim protection. She helped to establish Harbor House, a shelter for babies born with crack addiction.

From 1989 to 1992, Attorney General Freeman-Wilson served as director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, where she guided legislation making Indiana the first state to pass fair housing laws aligned with federal fair housing laws. She also guided legislation to bring Indiana law into alignment with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Attorney General Freeman-Wilson, a native of Gary, Indiana, was valedictorian of the class of 1978 at Roosevelt High School. She went on to graduate from Harvard College and Harvard School of Law. Ms. Freeman-Wilson was the first woman of African-American descent to serve as judge in Gary City Court.

Ms. Freeman-Wilson participates in several organizations, including the Indiana Women's Commission, the NAACP, and the Interfaith Prayer Power Pool.

Ms. Freeman-Wilson is an excellent example of someone who values our community and its citizens.

Attorney General instrumental in distribution of tobacco settlement



Rep. Moses and Attorney General Freeman-Wilson at the announcement of the \$500,000 distribution of tobacco settlement funds to Boys and Girls Clubs.

One of the biggest achievements of the 2000 legislative session was passage of legislation that sets up a system to allocate the more than \$4 billion Indiana will be receiving from the national tobacco settlement over the next 25 years. The funds will be used for health care services, tobacco prevention programs and assistance for senior citizens on lower incomes who have trouble purchasing prescription drugs.

\$35 million will be dedicated toward health care programs, with an emphasis on tobacco education and prevention. Of that, \$500,000 will be given to Boys and Girls Clubs as part of an ongoing effort to educate our young people about the dangers of tobacco usage.

Another \$20 million will be used to help seniors on low incomes purchase needed prescription drugs. Community health centers will receive \$15 million in program support, along with a one-time-only appropriation of \$10 million to make physical improvements to facilities.

Reducing Crime

As is usually the case, legislators approved a series of initiatives during the past session that will help penalize those who engage in illegal behavior.

Bias Crimes -- Legislation enabling law enforcement officials to track bias crimes in Indiana was approved by the General Assembly. Officials would be required to report the collected data to the Indiana Central Repository for Criminal History. The legislation defines a bias crime as a crime that a person commits based on another person's race, creed, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. The purpose of this legislation is to use the collected data to assess whether or not a bias crime problem exists in Indiana. Many other states already report bias crimes and use the data for assessment purposes.

Crimes and Offenses -- It is now illegal to direct a laser pointer at a law enforcement official. These laser pointers are often used as toys, but law enforcement officials can easily misidentify laser pointers as weapons. The penalty for directing a laser pointer at a police officer is a Class B misdemeanor. We enacted legislation to protect firefighters in the line of duty. A new offense of battery on a firefighter was created, and the penalty for this offense increases if the offender causes physical harm to the firefighter. Murderers now will not be let off the hook because of the amount of time that has expired since the crime was committed or the death of the victim. A new bill lengthens the amount of time that can expire before a murderer can be convicted. Victims of crime will be eligible to receive additional support through a law that increases the maximum award from the Violent Crime Compensation Fund to \$15,000.

Drunk Driving -- During the early session that took place in November, the General Assembly approved legislation that closed a major loophole in Indiana's drunken driving laws, making the roads safer for all Hoosiers. By changing the language in a state statute describing how much alcohol is allowed in a person's blood stream, the state will be able to prosecute a significantly greater number of individuals guilty of driving while intoxicated. Another law enables a court to suspend the driver's license of a minor who is charged with any drinking and driving offense that would result in a license suspension for any adult accused of the same crime.



Rep. Win. Moses and Attorney General Freeman-Wilson with Mayor Terry McDonald of New Haven at the Northern Indiana Mayors Round Table on how to reduce crime.



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